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(71) Applicant  
Magnet Holdings Limited

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)

Roydings Avenue, Kelghley, West Yorkshire, BD21,  
United Kingdom

(72) Inventor  
Douglas Evan Bachman

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service  
Audrey E Knowles  
624 Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, B29 7HG,  
United Kingdom

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## (54) Display system

(57) A display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture comprises a plurality of bearer units 1 mounted for horizontal sliding movement between a retracted stored position in a housing 2 and an extended viewing position. Each unit 1 comprises a mount panel 1a and an end panel 1b extending to each side of the mount panel 1a to define respective recessed bays 1c for furniture displayed on opposed sides of the mount panel 1a. The units 1 are arranged side by side with the mount panels 1a in spaced apart parallel relationship and, in the retracted position, the end panels 1b are aligned and close the housing 2 to conceal the mount panels 1a within the housing 2. The bearing units may incorporate lighting units to illuminate the furniture displayed.

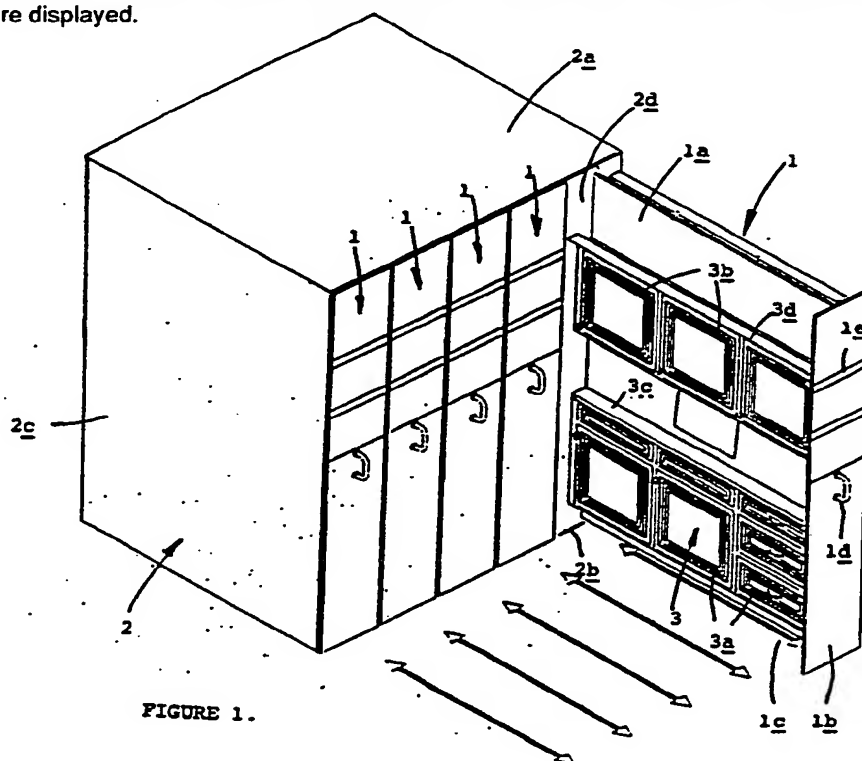


FIGURE 1.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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01    DISPLAY SYSTEM

      This invention relates to a display system for kitchen and bedroom furniture.

05       The invention has particular application to a display system for kitchen and bedroom furniture of the type comprising modular units of predetermined sizes that can be selected and arranged according to the available space to provide an integrated kitchen or bedroom design.

10       The known modular units for both kitchen and bedroom furniture comprise a carcass to which different combinations of doors and/or drawers are fitted. Usually, several ranges of units are provided having the same combinations but  
15   different styles and/or finishes for the doors and/or drawer fronts.

      To display the different ranges, it is usual for show kitchens or bedrooms to be assembled in the showroom from the modular units. In this way,  
20   the overall effect of the style and/or surface finish in a typical lay-out for each range is presented to the customer.

      The disadvantage of such fixed displays is that they are wasteful of floor space owing to the  
25   size of the individual units and the need to provide sufficient clearance space for customers to view each display.

      It is an object of the present invention to provide a display system for kitchen and bedroom  
30   furniture which overcomes the afore-mentioned disadvantage of fixed displays and enables several ranges of furniture to be displayed in a compact arrangement that makes economical use of available floor space.

01       According to the present invention we provide  
a display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture  
comprising a plurality of bearer units adapted for  
mounting ranges of kitchen or bedroom furniture  
05       with each bearer unit being supported for  
horizontal sliding movement between a retracted  
position ("the stored position") and an extended  
position ("the viewing position") such that each  
bearer unit is selectively movable to the extended  
10       position for showing the associated range of  
furniture.

The invented display system enables several  
ranges of kitchen or bedroom furniture to be  
mounted for selective viewing by the customer in a  
15       compact arrangement which makes better use of the  
available floor space than the conventional fixed  
displays.

Preferably, each bearer unit comprises a  
rectangular mount panel supported for the  
20       horizontal sliding movement and an end panel  
secured to one side edge with the end panel being  
provided with a hand grip accessible to the user  
for moving the bearer unit between the retracted  
and extended positions.

25       Advantageously, each end panel extends to  
either side of the associated mount panel to  
define therewith respective display bays on each  
side of the panel. In this way, ranges of  
furniture can be mounted for display on each side  
30       of the mount panel.

Each bearer unit may be suspended at the top  
for sliding movement with optional guide means  
being provided at the bottom to locate the bearer

01 unit during sliding movement. Alternatively, each  
unit may be supported at the bottom for sliding  
movement with the optional guide means being  
provided at the top.

05 Conveniently, the bearer units are received  
in a housing in the retracted position. Such  
housing may be provided in part by the wall(s),  
floor and ceiling of the showroom, for example an  
alcove or recess, and/or by fixed side, back, top  
10 and bottom panels as appropriate.

In a preferred arrangement, the housing is  
rectangular with the bearer units arranged side by  
side with the mount panels in spaced apart  
parallel relationship and the end panels closing  
15 an opening at one end of the housing in the  
retracted position.

Advantageously, each bearer unit incorporates  
lighting unit(s) adapted for connection to a power  
source for illuminating the associated range(s) of  
20 furniture.

Other features and advantages of the invented  
display system will be apparent from the following  
detailed description of an exemplary embodiment  
with reference to the accompanying drawings  
25 wherein:-

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a display  
system according to the present invention showing  
one of the bearer units in the extended position  
and from one side; and

30 FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the system  
similar to Figure 1 but showing the extended  
bearer unit from the other side.

01       The display system for kitchen furniture  
shown in the accompanying drawings comprises five  
bearer units 1 mounted for horizontal sliding  
movement between a retracted position for storage  
05   in a rectangular housing 2 ("the stored position")  
and an extended position for viewing any selected  
range of kitchen furniture ("the viewing  
position").

      The housing 2 comprises top and bottom  
10   walls 2a, 2b extending between opposed side  
walls 2c defining an opening 2d at one end, and a  
back wall (not shown) extending between the side  
walls 2c at the other end.

      The top and bottom walls 2a, 2b may be  
15   provided by the ceiling and floor of a showroom  
with the side walls 2c and back wall being  
provided by the walls of an existing recess or  
alcove.

      Alternatively, one or more of the side  
20   walls 2c and back wall may be provided by a  
respective fixed panel extending between the  
ceiling and floor.

      In a preferred arrangement, the housing 2 is  
arranged to provide clearance on either side of  
25   the opening 2d for viewing of both sides of each  
bearer unit 1.

      The bearer units 1 are of similar  
construction each comprising an upright  
rectangular mount panel 1a suspended along the top  
30   edge from a support track (not shown) for sliding  
movement by any suitable means (not shown).

      The bearer units 1 are arranged side by side  
with the mount panels 1a in spaced apart parallel

01 relationship, and each panel 1a is guided along  
the bottom edge for such sliding movement by any  
suitable means (not shown) to maintain the  
panel 1a upright and prevent the panel 1a twisting  
05 or swinging about the support track.

Secured to the front or leading side edge of  
each panel 1a is a respective upright rectangular  
end panel 1b arranged to extend on either side of  
the associated mount panel 1a to define therewith  
10 respective recessed display bays 1c. In the  
retracted position, the end panels 1b are aligned  
and close the opening 2d so as to conceal the  
mount panels 1a within the housing 2.

Mounted on the front or outer face of each  
15 end panel 1b is a respective hand grip 1d  
accessible to the user by means of which the  
associated bearer unit 1 may be manually moved  
between the retracted or stored position and the  
extended or viewing position.

20 Each end panel 1b is also provided on the  
front or outer face with means 1e for attaching  
labels (not shown) to identify the kitchen ranges  
for use by the customer in selecting the required  
bearer unit 1 to be extended to the viewing  
25 position.

Mounted on each side of each mount panel 1a  
is a respective show kitchen 3 consisting of an  
array of modular base units 3a and an array of  
modular wall units 3b. Typically, the door and  
30 drawer fronts of the units 3a, 3b will all be to  
the same style for a given range of units but may  
have different surface finishes where there is a  
choice of the surface finish.



01        Each unit 3a, 3b is of the same height and  
width as the corresponding full-size unit but is  
of reduced depth so as to be confined within the  
associated display bay 1c. By using normal sizes  
05 for the height and width of the units 3a, 3b and  
reducing only the depth, a three dimensional  
display is obtained which simulates the effect of  
a conventional fixed display assembled from full-  
size units.

10        Each show kitchen 3 is completed by a narrow  
strip of worktop 3c extending across the top of  
the base units 3a and by a cornice 3d extending  
along the top edge of the wall units 3b.

15        A pelmet (not shown) may also be provided  
along the bottom edge of the wall units 3b as  
well as tiles or other suitable wall covering (not  
shown) between the base units 3a and the wall  
units 3b.

20        Additionally, each bearer unit 1 may  
incorporate lighting unit(s) (not shown) adapted  
for connection to a suitable power source to  
illuminate the associated show kitchens 3.

25        As will now be appreciated, the present  
invention provides a compact display system  
permitting selective viewing of several different  
ranges of furniture in a floor area considerably  
less than that required for a conventional fixed  
display of the same ranges of furniture.

30        As a result, the number of ranges that can be  
displayed may be increased for a given floor space  
or the saving in floor space may be utilised to  
display other products.

01 By way of example only and without limiting  
the scope of the invention as described herein, in  
the exemplary embodiment above-described, each end  
panel 1b is 400mm wide providing display  
05 bays 1c approximately 200mm deep on either side of  
the associated mount panel 1a and the base  
units 3a and wall units 3b are 75mm and 75mm deep  
respectively as compared with the corresponding  
full size units which are 500mm and 300mm deep  
10 respectively.

It will be understood that the invention is  
not limited to the embodiment above-described, for  
example the number of bearer units may be selected  
as desired.

15 Each mount panel may be used to mount  
furniture on one side only, for example where  
access to both sides of the bearer units is  
restricted.

Each mount panel may be arranged to mount and  
20 display more than one range of furniture on the or  
each side.

The housing may be arranged with openings at  
both ends and the bearer units arranged for  
sliding movement to the extended position from  
25 either end. In this way, separate bearer units  
may be extended from either end for viewing of  
different ranges at the same time.

The housing may be of any shape or size, for  
example circular or part circular with the bearer  
30 units arranged to extend radially. Two or more  
 housings with the associated bearer units may be  
arranged side by side, back to back or any other  
positions as desired.

01        Finally, although the invention has been  
described with reference to the mounting and  
display of ranges of kitchen furniture, it is to  
be understood that the invention applies equally  
05    to the mounting and display of different ranges of  
modular units of bedroom furniture having door  
and/or drawer fronts of a particular style and/or  
finish.

01 Claims:

1. A display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture comprising a plurality of bearer units adapted for mounting ranges of kitchen or bedroom furniture with  
05 each bearer unit being supported for horizontal sliding movement between a retracted position ("the stored position") and an extended position ("the viewing position") such that each bearer unit is selectively movable to the extended position for showing the  
10 associated range of furniture.
2. A display system according to Claim 1 wherein each bearer unit comprises a rectangular mount panel supported for the horizontal sliding movement and an end panel secured to one side edge with the end panel  
15 being provided with a hand grip accessible to the user for moving the bearer unit between the retracted and extended positions.
3. A display system according to Claim 2 wherein each end panel is provided with means for displaying a  
20 label.
4. A display system according to Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein each end panel extends to either side of the associated mount panel to define therewith respective display bays on each side of the panel.
- 25 5. A display system according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein each bearer unit is suspended at the top for sliding movement with optional guide means being provided at the bottom to locate the bearer unit during sliding movement.
- 30 6. A display system according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein each bearer unit is supported at the bottom for sliding movement with optional guide means being provided at the top.

- 01 7. A display system according to any one of the  
preceding Claims wherein the bearer units are received  
in a housing in the retracted position.
- 05 8. A display system according to Claim 7 wherein, in  
use, the system is arranged in a showroom or like  
display area and the housing is provided in part by the  
wall(s), floor and ceiling of the room and/or by fixed  
side, back, top and bottom panels as appropriate.
- 10 9. A display system according to Claim 7 or Claim 8  
as dependent on Claim 2 wherein the housing is  
rectangular with the bearer units arranged side by side  
with the mount panels in spaced apart parallel  
relationship and the end panels closing an opening at  
one end of the housing in the retracted position.
- 15 10. A display system according to Claim 9 wherein the  
bearer units can be extended from said one end only.
- 20 11. A display system according to Claim 9 wherein each  
bearer unit has a respective end panel at each end and  
the bearer units can be extended from each end of the  
housing.
- 25 12. A display system according to any one of Claims 1  
to 7 wherein the housing is circular or part circular  
and the bearer units are arranged to extend radially.
13. A display system according to any one of the  
preceding Claims wherein each bearer unit incorporates  
lighting unit(s) adapted for connection to a power  
source for illuminating the associated range(s) of  
furniture.
- 30 14. A display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture  
substantially as hereinbefore described with reference  
to the accompanying drawings.

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